

RECOGNIZING THE NIXA HIGH
SCHOOL BOWLING TEAM

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Nixa High School Bowling Team for winning their second State High School Bowling Championship.

Nixa High School's bowling team, in its second year of existence, returned to defend its championship title at the Missouri State Tournament and left its competition in the gutter. The Eagles advanced with 3 other local teams to the Missouri State Championships where they competed against 23 other teams from all across the state.

The team, which included seniors Kyle Bates and Jacob Nelson; juniors Justin Lair, Kristen Nunn, Nick Zummo, and Brandon Maser; and sophomores David Krol, Shannon Burns, and Dylan Brentlinger, initially competed in 24 games which followed the Baker Format.

The Baker format is patterned after college bowling competitions and is used to maintain a quicker pace from game to game, yielding more excitement. Nixa bowling was the Number 1 seed out of the top five teams to advance to the championship round, and the team ultimately prevailed against Jefferson City after two straight games with scores of 215–174 and 211–196.

While bowling is usually recognized as an individual sport, the Baker competition format required each member of the Nixa bowling team to think as a team because each shot would be included as part of one score. As a result, teams competing in this format will only be as good as their weakest link because all players participate in only 2 frames each.

Coaches David Krol and Larry Hughes worked diligently to instill that concept in their team and should be proud of their accomplishment in guiding such a phenomenal group of young men and women. I commend them all on a job well done.

The Nixa community is justifiably proud of this extraordinary group of young and talented future leaders.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Nixa High School Bowling Team as they celebrate their second State Bowling Championship.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT JOSE
RODRIGUEZ

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today with my colleague Congressman JIM COSTA to honor the late Sgt. Jose Rodriguez who was killed on June 19, 2012 in Kandahar province, Afghanistan while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Rodriguez paid the ultimate price, sacrificing his life, while protecting and serving the United States of America.

Sergeant Rodriguez was raised in Newman and Gustine. He graduated from Gustine High

School in 2008 and joined the army shortly thereafter. He was assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, Washington in 2009. His first deployment was in July 2009 where he was a part of the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. Sergeant Rodriguez decided to re-deploy on a second tour of duty in order to better provide for his wife and young son. On his second tour, he was in the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He received the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal Combat Service, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, NATO Medal, Certificate of Achievement, and Combat Infantry Badge.

Sergeant Rodriguez's family called him a responsible, quiet, and caring man. He had hoped to become a firefighter after returning home next year. He leaves behind a loving wife, Maria "Lupita" Rodriguez and a thirteen month old son, Octavian. He is also survived by his parents Margarita Rodriguez and Augustine Rodriguez; his brothers, Ruben Rodriguez, Julian Rodriguez, Edgar Rodriguez, Jonathon Rodriguez and his two sisters, Judith Rodriguez and Jacqueline Rodriguez.

Mr. Speaker, together with my colleague, Congressman JIM COSTA, the recognition that we are offering today before the House of Representatives for Sergeant Jose Rodriguez is small compared to the contributions and impact he had on the lives of so many. He was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding human being. My thoughts are with Sergeant Rodriguez's family and the community as they grieve the loss of this wonderful young man.

BATTLE CRY, A CRY TO ACTION

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a poem by Dona Julian Cassel. Ms. Cassel graduated from East Texas State University, currently Texas A&M University-Commerce, in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and 1971 with a master's degree in English. She is a retired teacher who has since formed her own training company which works with businesses to teach their staff communication and customer service skills.

Ms. Cassel's writing is timely for our Nation, and something I believe can inspire Americans to act.

BATTLE CRY, A CALL TO ACTION

Now is the time to take your stand!
Don't huddle in the shadows anymore—
Your collective voices must soon be heard.
Send your lawmakers a resounding roar!
Make your earnest requests be known!
Demand from Congress and from your
state—
Empowerment to teach as you know best
To produce the results that made America
great!

O teachers! What power you still possess!
Immortal forces upon the ages—
This noble profession which is your calling

Deserves respect and rightful wages!

Defend the honor of your vocation!

Keep its standards lifted high!

Unite! Join this call to action!

Embrace these stanzas as your battle cry!

IN HONOR OF MANDELA DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I happily rise today to celebrate Nelson Mandela's birthday on July 18. Mr. Mandela is a man whose life has been absolutely dedicated to service and social justice.

From a young age, Mr. Mandela was aware of the economic and civil injustices that plagued South Africa under apartheid, where racial discrimination was official government policy. Mr. Mandela joined the African National Congress and worked to end minority rule in his home country, becoming an enemy of the South African government.

In 1963, Mr. Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment for political offenses, ultimately serving 27 years. During this time, he refused to renounce his political beliefs in exchange for a reduced term, and he remained steadfastly committed to his cause. Many would see a life sentence as total defeat, but Mr. Mandela continued his campaign and, in doing so, became an international symbol of resistance.

Despite a lifetime of constant struggle, Mr. Mandela never became bitter or overcome with anger. He instead looked ahead to the possibility of equality and freedom in a country that had always been divided by race. His dream was not to wage war against his oppressors. Rather he sought to liberate them from ignorance and hatred and create a unified nation.

Mr. Mandela's struggle has distinguished him as an extraordinary leader in the eyes of the international community and his fellow South Africans. Mr. Mandela was presented with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, and he accepted the award on behalf of all South Africans who had made tremendous sacrifices in the name of peace and liberty. The following year, he was elected President of South Africa in the first fully representative democratic election, defeating apartheid rule.

Even after stepping down from the South African presidency, Mr. Mandela's commitment to service did not waiver. Mr. Mandela has since founded three foundations: The Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, and the Mandela-Rhodes Foundation. I am truly inspired by Mr. Mandela's tireless work and continued advocacy.

In 2009, July 18 was adopted by the United Nations as Nelson Mandela International Day of Service. Mr. Mandela gave 67 years of his life to the fight for human rights, and people all over the world are asked to spend Mandela Day giving 67 minutes of their time to serve their local communities and charities.

Mr. Speaker, apartheid has ended, but struggles for peace and human dignity persist in all corners of the world. I remember one passage that Mr. Mandela wrote: "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are